

What is Claimed:

- 1 1. A set top box comprising:
 - 2 a first port for receiving a data signal that represents caption text;
 - 3 a second port for receiving a video signal; and
 - 4 a video processor responsive to the data signal for generating a further
 - 5 signal that represents the caption text and for combining the further signal with the
 - 6 video signal to provide an output video signal.
- 1 2. The set top box of claim 1 wherein the video processor includes
- 2 an on-screen display for converting the caption text into a video image, and the video
- 3 processor combines the video image and the video signal to form the output video
- 4 signal.
- 1 3. The set top box of claim 1 wherein the video processor includes a
- 2 closed caption encoder for encoding the video signal with the caption text to form the
- 3 output video signal.
- 1 4. The set top box of claim 1 additionally comprising:
 - 2 a computer readable carrier that includes computer readable software for
 - 3 use with a computer, wherein the computer readable software causes the computer to
 - 4 transmit the caption text to the first port of the set top box.
- 1 5. A method of combining caption text and a video signal
- 2 comprising:
 - 3 receiving caption text in a first port of a set top box;
 - 4 receiving a video signal in a second port of the set top box;

5 combining the caption text and the video signal into an output video
6 signal.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:

2 converting the caption text into a video image.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of combining includes
2 encoding the video signal with the caption text as closed caption data.

1 8. The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

2 receiving, in a video recording device, said output video signal; and

3 recording said output video signal onto a video storage medium.

1 9. A video captioning system comprising:

2 a computer including caption text;

3 a set top box including,

4 a first port for receiving a data signal from the computer that
5 represents the caption text;

6 a second port for receiving a video signal from a video source;
7 and

8 a video processor responsive to the data signal for generating a
9 further signal that represents the caption text and for combining
10 the further signal with the video signal to provide an output video
11 signal.

1 10. The video captioning system of claim 9 wherein the computer is
2 responsive to a command from a user to cause the computer to transmit the data
3 signal that represents the caption text to the first port of the set top box.

1 11. The video captioning system of claim 9 wherein the computer is
2 responsive to a predetermined keystroke to transmit the data signal that represents the
3 caption text to the first port of the set top box.

1 12. The video captioning system of claim 9 wherein the data signal
2 includes caption text information related to at least one of size, color, style, and
3 location of the caption text, and the video processor uses the caption text information
4 in the creation of the output signal.

1 13. A method of inserting caption text into a video signal comprising:
2 receiving, in a computer, a command to transmit a data signal that
3 represents caption text stored in the computer;
4 receiving the data signal in a first port of a set top box;
5 receiving the video signal in a second port of the set top box;
6 combining the data signal and the video signal to provide an output
7 video signal.

1 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:
2 programming a video processor in the set top box to convert the data
3 signal to a video image and to combine the video image and the video signal into the
4 output video image.

1 15. A computer readable carrier including computer program
2 instructions which cause a computer to implement a method of inserting caption text
3 into a video signal, the method comprising the steps of:

- 4 receiving, in a computer, a command to transmit a data signal that
- 5 represents caption text stored in the computer;
- 6 receiving the data signal in a first port of a set top box;
- 7 receiving the video signal in a second port of the set top box;
- 8 combining the data signal and the video signal to produce an output
- 9 video signal.